

REMARKS

Claim 6 has been amended. Claim 17 has been cancelled. Claim 6 remains for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

3-4. Claims 6 and 17 currently stand rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of U.S. Patent 6,611,537 to Edens (hereinafter "Edens").

As amended, claim 6 recites a local network that includes:

"a first subscriber configured as a data source that transmits compressed audio and video data onto the ring network;

a second subscriber that receives decompressed audio data via the ring network;

a third subscriber that receives decompressed video data via the ring network,

a fourth subscriber that includes

(i) a bit stream decoder that receives the compressed audio and video data via the ring network and decodes the compressed audio and video data and provides decompressed audio and video data;

(ii) a separation stage that receives the decompressed audio and video data and separates the decompressed audio and video data to provide the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal; and

(iii) a control unit that controls the transmission of the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal onto the ring network

where the second, third and fourth subscribers each comprise a data sink and the second, third and fourth subscribers are separate from each other and connected within the ring network by the data line." (emphasis added, cl. 6).

As recited in claim 6, the control unit of the fourth subscriber controls the transmission of the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal onto the ring network.

In contrast, Edens seeks to avoid providing decompressed video on the ring network since it includes an MPEG decoder with each video display device. Specifically, Edens states "...the

MPEG decoding will occur only after such information leaves logical ring network 120 (e.g., it a television where information will be decoded and decompressed for viewing)." (emphasis added, col. 13, lines 62-65).

The Official Action contends that Edens discloses the feature of providing a decompressed video data signal onto the ring network, and in support cites to col. 58, lines 38-42. (see Official Action, pg. 3). However, this cited section of Edens merely states "*MPEG2 decoders would instead exist at (or incorporated into) television/monitor network devices for example, from which digital video and/or audio signals can be extracted (and possibly delivered to other network devices).*" (col. 58, lines 38-42). In this statement Edens merely states that compressed data may be extracted and possibly provided to other network devices, but it does not disclose providing decompressed data on the network. Significantly, given a fair and proper reading of Edens as a whole, it is clear that Edens is teaching providing compressed data over the network, and using distributed decoders so only compressed data is on the network.

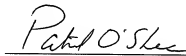
The Official Action also cites to the statement "[t]he digital audio signal may also be routed back to the network for distribution to other network devices, such as the AC-3 Surround Sound Processor discussed above." (col. 103, lines 34-37). However, again this statement in Edens does not support the contention for which it is being relied upon in the Official Action. Specifically, taken in the proper context, this statement merely indicates that the L and R stereo output signals on lines 3834 and 3836 respectively are output on dedicated/non-network lines to an AC-3 surround sound processor. As disclosed in Edens, in order to go back to the network the digital output signal would have to be provided through the interface transformer 3804 shown in FIG. 21(o) of Edens. But as shown in FIG. 21(o), the output from the Audio D/A 3832 is only provided to the L and R outputs only, NOT over the network. So this teaching in Edens is

clearly incapable of disclosing or suggesting the claimed feature of "*a control unit that controls the transmission of the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal onto the ring network*". (emphasis added, cl. 6).

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick J. O'Shea", is written over a horizontal line.

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